GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:710
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
FOOD POISONING OF PEACOCKS
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in Dainik Jagran dated October 29, 2005 under the caption `Food Poisoning Se Das Mor Mare` ;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(c) the measures adopted by the Government for the protection of wild animals and birds so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the people living near forest from violent wild animals in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by Government of Haryana, six peafowls died due to insecticide poisoning in Hamidpur near Narnaul in Haryana on 27th October, 2005. The State Government officials have held meetings with the villagers to spread awareness about ill effects of the use of heavy doses of insecticides. The Forest Department, Haryana has also requested Agricultural Department to take up research on safer insecticides and biopesticides.

(c) The measures adopted by the Government for the protection of wild animals and birds include:

1. Species of wild fauna and flora are listed in the six Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 affording different degrees of protection depending on their endangered/threatened status.

2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been further amended in 2002 and made more stringent.

3. The Central Bureau of Investigation has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

4.Central Government has adopted the integrated pest management approach to minimize indiscriminate and injudicious use of chemical pesticides to prevent inadvertent damage to peacocks and other foraging birds.

5. Awareness is being generated amongst the farmers to adopt organic farming methods and use bio-pesticides to save their crops from the ravages of pests and diseases.

The steps taken by the Government to protect the people living near forest from violent wild animals include:

1. Restoration of habitat and animal corridors to minimize incidences of straying of wild animals into human habitation.

2. Chief Wildlife Wardens have been empowered under section 11 (1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to permit hunting of animal or group of animals which have become dangerous to human life or to property including standing crops on any land.

3. Ex-gratia payment is given to persons affected by incidences of man-animal conflict.

4 . Generating awareness among the forest fringe dwellers towards conservation and encouraging additional income options to minimize man-animal conflict.